

My name is Kylie Barnes. I live at 1729 Ethel Lane, Missoula MT, 59802. My phone number is 406-531-5998.

When my son was 10mo old I was contacted to serve as a juror by phone. The case that needed to be tried was last minute so instead of sending out letters they were contacting people via phone.

I have always wanted to sever as a juror and thought the opportunity sounded interesting. I shared my feelings with the women who contacted me. I then let the women know I was breastfeeding and would need to be able to nurse my child asking how that would work.

She proceeded to inform me that I would need to use a bottle because there was no way I could take breaks to nurse my child. I let her know that bottle feeding was not an option. Even if I could give my son a bottle I would still have needed breaks to pump mile. In my case there were a few contributing factors. My milk supply was low and my milk would not let down when I would use a breast pump. I had met with a lactation consultant a few times regarding these problems. I had tried a few different breast pumps including a hospital grade pump. The number one piece of advice the consultant gave me was NOT to miss a feeding. Since I could not pump my milk supply would be lost if I missed too many feedings.

The women responded by telling me I would just have to figure something out. Based on her tone of voice she didn't seem to understand or care.

I am an advocate for breastfeeding believing it is in the best interest of a mother to breastfeed if possible. I was not willing to risk loosing my milk to be apart of jury duty.

I contacted the Human Rights Council as preparation as to what I should do. In the meantime the case that needed jurors settled out of court and I was contacted saying I was no longer needed.

Thankfully in my situation it worked out. I would have fought serving as a juror in that case to protect breastfeeding my son. I strongly urge you to consider breastfeeding moms and their ability to serve as a juror.

Hellenga, Lynn

From: Pullman, Kim (DOA HCBD) [KPullman@mt.gov]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 12:01 PM
To: Hellenga, Lynn
Subject: RE: legislation update

Importance: High

Hi Lynn,
Here is a brief testimony for you to use. Please let me know if I can add anything else.
Thank you!

"Kimala Pullman
PO Box 277, East Helena, MT 59635
406-439-2383

I stand in support of the bill to exempt breastfeeding mothers from jury duty. While breastfeeding, serving on a jury would be very difficult. Especially with a small baby, nursing is necessary every few hours. If I was called for jury duty and not allowed to breastfeed my child, I would have to bring a pump into the court and hide it under a blanket - not a feasible option for anyone - and this is assuming I even had access to a breast pump. Going without pumping for even 8 hours while breastfeeding can lead to potentially serious effects; the most important of which is a very hungry baby, but also mastitis and decrease of milk supply. In addition to many other benefits, breastfeeding significantly lowers a baby and mother's chances of chronic disease and sick days, not just during infancy, but throughout their lives. We must empower mothers to make the best choice for the health of themselves and their babies, and requiring them to serve on a jury during the all-important breastfeeding stage does not meet this goal. Thank you for considering my testimony, and please contact me if there are any questions."

Kim Pullman, RD, LN
Wellness Coordinator
Health Care and Benefits Division
(406) 444-3809

From: Hellenga, Lynn [lhellenga@montana.edu]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 11:32 AM
To: Pullman, Kim (DOA HCBD)
Subject: RE: legislation update

Hi Kim,
It was great to see you last week. I'm looking for any hardship you would have encountered if you were called to jury duty in the first few months of Alex's life.

I will need your full name, address and phone number on the testimony (I can be 3 minutes or less).

Thanks if you are able to do this at the 11th hour!!

Lynn H.

From: Pullman, Kim (DOA HCBD) [mailto:KPullman@mt.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2009 8:25 AM
To: Hellenga, Lynn
Subject: RE: legislation update

Hi Lynn,
Depending on the type of testimony you need, I may be able to help if someone else can read it.

Lynn Hellenga

1017 O'Connell Drive

Bozeman, MT 59715

406 587 9271

I was called to jury duty when my youngest son was an exclusive breastfed infant in Bozeman several years ago. I arranged childcare at my expense and planned on pumping with my breast pump in my car outside the courthouse. Not knowing the courthouse layout with the possibility of a lactation room this arrangement was not ideal for any mother. I knew I needed more support in Montana to provide the best nutritional start for my child. I was selected for the jury on a one day trial. The court case had an hour lunch break allowing me to rush to feed my infant without the difficulty of pumping breast milk for a later feeding in my car. All that needless anxiety and worry for not having accommodations for breastfeeding mothers when summoned to jury duty in Montana.

Mothers that are summoned to serve jury duty in Montana should not have to rest fate in the hands of a jury clerk or judge. Mothers of Montana breastfeeding their infants need to have House Bill 372 passed to focus their priority to their young child and be assured that jury duty be deferred or postponed.

I do feel it is important for United States citizens and Montana residents to answer juror summons. This bill is asking for necessary accommodation to breastfeeding mothers for a short period of time.